



THE GREEN SCENE

Annual Department Awards Ceremony

The 2008 Awards Banquet was held on Thursday, April 23, 2009 at the Industry Hills Expo Center in City of Industry. The beautifully decorated banquet hall reflected the colorful and joyful theme of this year's event "Spring Into Nature's Garden".

The night began with a social hour, where employees had the opportunity to relax and spend time with co-workers and family members. Following the social hour, dinner was served. The delightful dishes included: sirloin tips, barbeque chicken, veggie lasagna, rice, steamed veggies, bread, a variety of salads, fresh fruit and much more. The buffet style dinner was accompanied by great performances by Roddy Gregory, Sarah Arnold, Demesha Conway, and Jose Maldonado, lead singer of the "Sweet & Tender Hooligans".

Award winners were called to the stage one by one to receive their amazing plaque and gift basket, while Russ Guiney, Director, and John Wicker, Chief Deputy Director congratulated them and posed for photographs.



Roddy Gregory, Regional Park Superintendent, San Dimas Canyon Nature Center, performed at the 2008 Awards Banquet

Special thanks to the Awards Committee Members who organized this event and Yvette Maufas, Mistress of Ceremonies, who made it a truly memorable night!

Awards Committee Members:

East Agency: Melinda Mayoral, Lorraine Martinez, Olivia Perea, Jose Ramirez

North Agency: Jeff Dorst, Alicia Garcia, Angelica Calleros

South Agency: Jerome Johnson, Sam Armas

Regional Facilities: Roddy Gregory, Delores Rios-Ramirez, Michelle Breceda, Kevin Kane, Carlos E. Perez

Administration and Planning and Development: Elizabeth Mendez, Robert Ettleman, Jackelyn Lukito, Larry Hensley



Sarah Arnold, North Agency Youth Worker, performed at the 2008 Awards Banquet



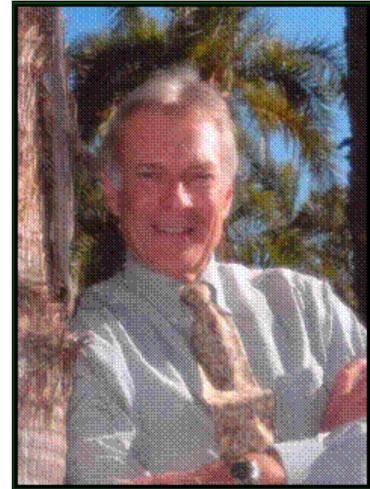
Demesha Conway, Intermediate Clerk, Training Office, performed at the 2008 Awards Banquet

CONTENTS

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE	2
PLAY FOR LIFE! UPDATE	2
DEPARTMENT AWARDS	3 - 8
PARKS SUMMIT 2009	9
EMPLOYEE SYMPOSIUM 2009	10
ANNUAL FAMILY MUSIC FESTIVAL	11
HIGH FIVE!	12

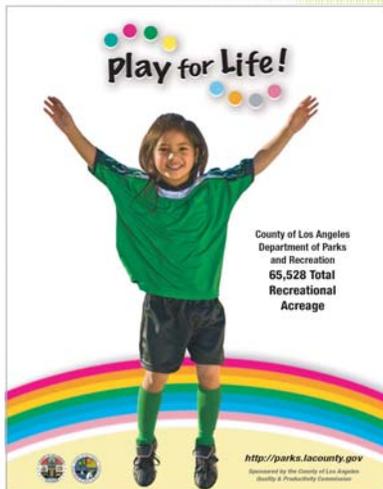
Greetings from the Director

As we get ready for our prime season this summer, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what a busy spring we have been having. We successfully moved our Parks Summit and Employee Symposium to temperate May as opposed to previous years' cooler January. Everyone seemed to appreciate the warmer weather at the Arboretum and in turn perhaps enjoyed themselves more in the process. This year's theme for both events was A Time for Change. How appropriate this message was as we go through many changes in our budget, yet the main message during both events is that now, our parks and recreation mission to serve the public with great customer service is more important than ever. This year's Park Summit welcomed the largest group of parks and recreation professionals and organizations yet! We also recently held our Department's Annual Awards Banquet. Congratulations to everyone who was nominated and to those who took home awards! Our Annual Awards Banquet is just a small way we say thank you for all of your dedicated, hard work. You are what makes this department a success.



Russ Guiney, Director

Play for Life! Phase II Coming Soon!



We Stop and Smell the Flowers! You should too!

County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation
Stop and Smell the Flowers!
 at 4 Arboreta and Botanic Gardens

Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden
 301 N. Baldwin Avenue
 Arcadia, CA 91007
 (626) 821-3222

Descanso Gardens
 1418 Descanso Drive
 La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011
 (818) 949-4200

South Coast Botanic Garden
 26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
 Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274
 (310) 544-6815

Virginia Robinson Gardens
 Beverly Hills, CA 90210
 Please Call for Reservations
 (310) 276-5367

play for Life!

County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation
4 Arboreta and Botanic Gardens
<http://parks.lacounty.gov>

Sponsored by the County of Los Angeles Quality and Productivity Commission

<http://parks.lacounty.gov>

The second phase of our departmental Public Information Campaign *Play for Life!* is well underway. Many of you are asking about our new and exciting promotional items for this new phase of the campaign. You will soon see colorful posters featuring our spokespeople at parks, healthcare facilities and libraries throughout the county. Soon you will also be receiving colorful bookmarks with information about our parks and programs available throughout the department. Be on the lookout for these fabulous items to help spread the word about our wonderful Department!

Department of Parks and Recreation 2008 Nominees

Directors Award

Miguel Vazquez
Francine Choi
Kandy Hays
Clement Lau

Individual Contribution Award

Jeremy Gray
Elena Wilson
Sonia "Jacquie" Talbert-Mackey
Imee Perius
Ron Cox
Annie Hua
Timothy-John Lamson

Commissioners Award

Roosevelt Park Senior Center
Capital Projects Section
Planning and Development Agency
Contract, Golf and Special Districts
Bobby Ramirez

Healthy Parks Award

Summer Lunch/Snack Program
2008 Wellness Fair Program

Open Water Swim Workout

Electrical & Welding Sections

Safety Contribution Award

Mary Hernandez
Raul Flores

Safety Equipment Operation

Joseph Orosco Jr.
Gener P. Gandia
Jorge Mendoza

Best New Program Award

Placerita Audio Tour

Moonlight Kayaking

Placerita/Castaic Beginning Birder Program
2008 First Annual Los Angeles Taiji Festival
California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights
Public Safety Appreciation Barbeque
South Coast Botanic Garden Self Guided Cell Phone Tour
Skin Diving
Tiny Tots Bilingual Education Program
Santa's Mail Box

Valor Award

Walter Castro & Sergio Orozco
Sergio Hinojosa
Whittier Narrows Regional Park Staff

Volunteer Involvement Award

Cerritos Park Teen Program
Norma Garcia
Bassett Park APC

Image Award

Capital Projects Section
South Whittier Educate and Celebrate Festival
Tim Tran
Whittier Narrows Regional Park Staff
Kim Bosell
Chung Ng
Jose Maldonado
Manuel Saldivar
Bassett Park
Mayberry Park Christmas Food and Toy Giveaway

Permanent Employee of the Year

Jose Contreras
Francine Choi
Mark Lazarus
Tanya Finney
Anita Sandoval
Rozelle Dykes
Ross Varone
Alvaro Guzman
Miguel Amador
Sok Tay
Mario Donaldson
Brenda Sanchez

Recurrent Employee of the Year

Deanna Gutierrez
Lisa Ceasan
Grek Leiva
Jillian Blake
Kimberly Rede
Renita Nelson
Sinue Torres
Anna Rodriguez
Tiffany Zupan
Maria Quintanilla
Blanca Flores
Emilio Sanchez

Facility of the Year

Hollywood Bowl Maintenance Crew
South Coast Botanic Garden Self Guided Cell Phone Tour
Ladera Senior Center
Fiscal Administration Section
Budget Section
North Agency Travel Crew
Eddie Heredia Boxing
Adult Crew
Castaic Lake
Management Services
Virginia Robinson Gardens
Helen Keller Park
El Cariso Park

*Winners Bolded

Department of Parks and Recreation Award Recipients



The **Management Services Section** received the Department Facility of the Year Award. Left to Right: Russ Guiney, Ross Varone, Narek Artonian, Monica Pollaccia, Elizabeth Mendez, Robert Guillen, Janet Villalobos, Veronica Castillo, John Wicker



JoAnn Jones accepted on behalf of **Ladera Senior Center** the South Agency Facility of the Year Award



The **Ocean Water Swim Workout Program** received the Healthy Parks Award. Left to Right: Russ Guiney, Hugo Maldonado, Eric Reifman, Lori Bennett, John Wicker



The **Fiscal Administration Division** received the Administration/Planning and Development Agency Facility of the Year Award. Left to Right: Russ Guiney, Ramby Wong, Grace Hu, Nelia Mutuc-Agno, Vera Thomas, Vivienne Troung, Jennifer Emmsley, Francine Choi, Jackelyn Lukito, Barbara Ridley, Faith Parducho, Jing Zhou, John Wicker



David Martinez and Mary Hernandez accepted on behalf of **Amelia Mayberry Park Christmas Food and Toy Giveaway Program** the Image Award. Left to Right: Russ Guiney, David Martinez, Mary Hernandez, John Wicker



Imee Perius, Public Information Officer, Executive Office, received the Individual Contribution Award

Department of Parks and Recreation Award Recipients



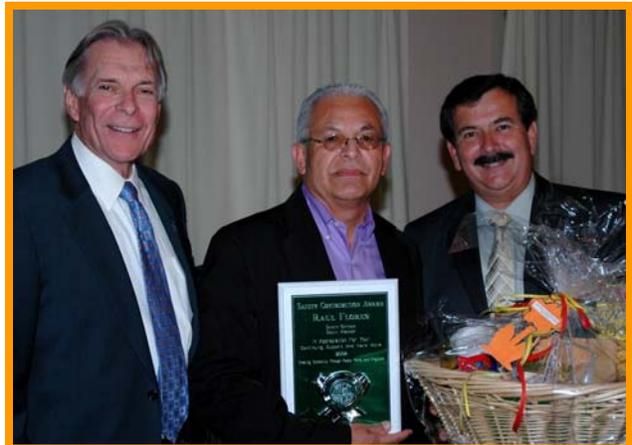
Kim Bosell, Regional Park Superintendent, Deane Dana Friendship Community Regional Park, received the Regional Facilities Agency Permanent Employee of the Year Award



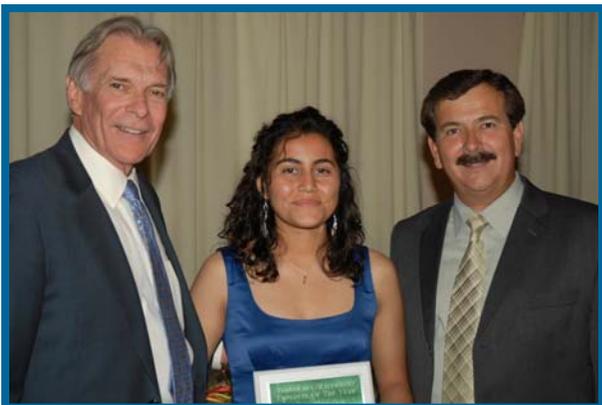
Greg Hamilton, Crew Instructor Supervisor, South Agency Headquarters, received the South Agency Permanent Employee of the Year Award



Gener P. Gandia, Agriculture Chemical Sprayer, East Agency, received the Safe Equipment Operation Award



Raul Flores, Safety Officer, South Agency, received the Safety Contribution Award

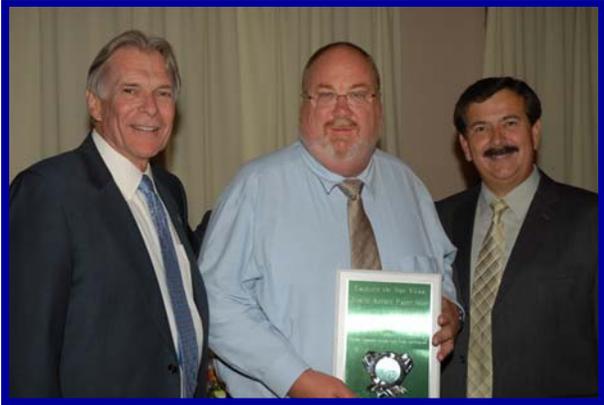


Alma Parada, Recreation Service Leader, Eaton Canyon Nature Center, received the Regional Facilities Agency Temporary/Recurrent Employee of the Year Award

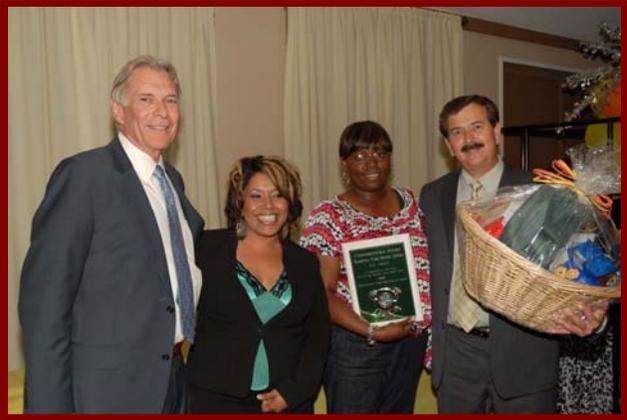


Alma Palacios accepted on behalf of **Bassett Park** the East Agency Facility of the Year Award

**Department of Parks and Recreation
Award Recipients**



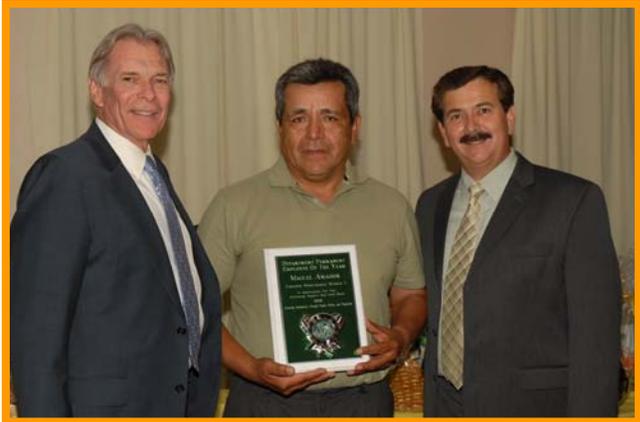
Donald Houston accepted on behalf of the **North Agency Paint Shop**, the North Agency Facility of the Year Award



Franklin D. Roosevelt Senior Center received the Commissioner's Award. Left to Right: Russ Guiney, Sofia Gavia, Charlotte Robinson-Perkins, John Wicker



The **Junior Golf Program** received the Regional Facilities Agency Facility of the Year Award. Left to Right: Russ Guiney, Larry Lee, Jorge Badel, Lee Harlow, Kandy Hays, Delores Ramirez, John Wicker



Miguel Amador, Grounds Maintenance Worker II at Castaic Sports Complex, received the Department Permanent Employee of the Year Award



Jillian Blake, Senior Pool Lifeguard, received the Department Temporary/Recurrent Employee of the Year Award

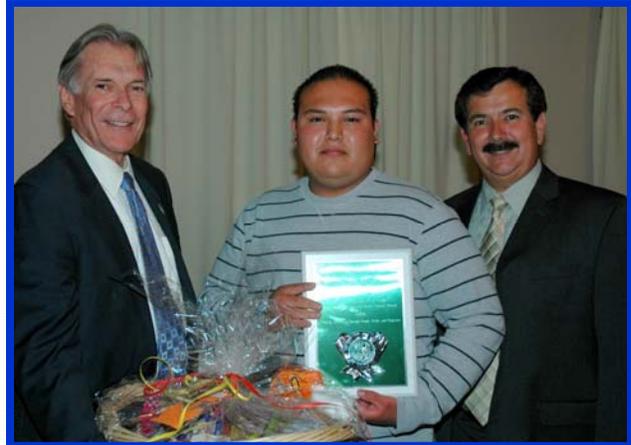


Francine Choi, Administrative Assistant III, Fiscal Administration Division, received the Director's Award

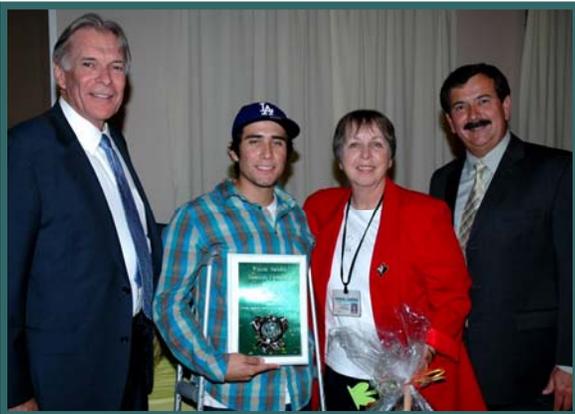
Department of Parks and Recreation Award Recipients



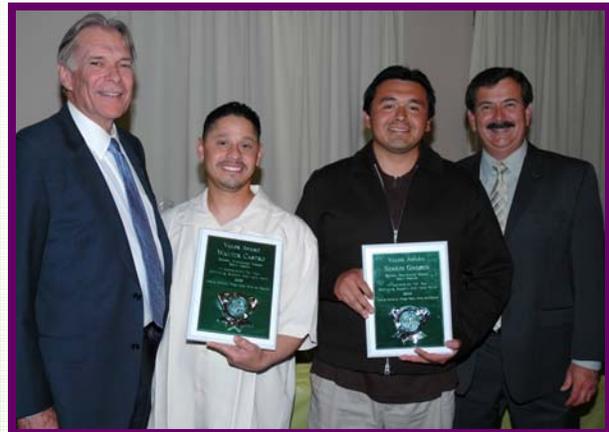
The L.A. County Teen Program, South Agency, received the Volunteer Involvement Award. Left to Right: Russ Guiney, Betty Espinoza, Margo Gordon, Megan Gordon, Angel Baltazar, John Wicker



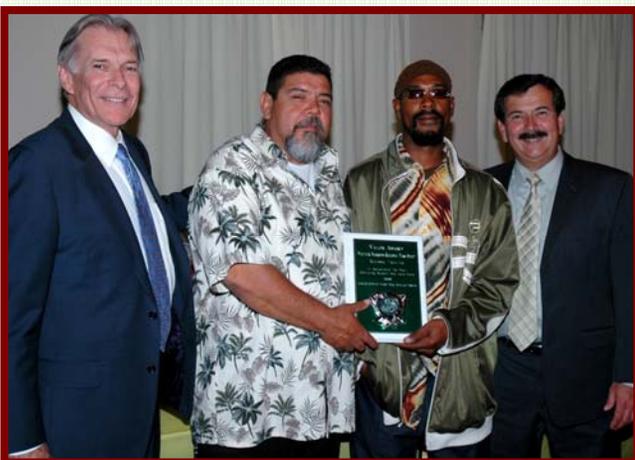
Jose Acevedo accepted on behalf of **Bassett Park APC Program**, the Volunteer Involvement Award



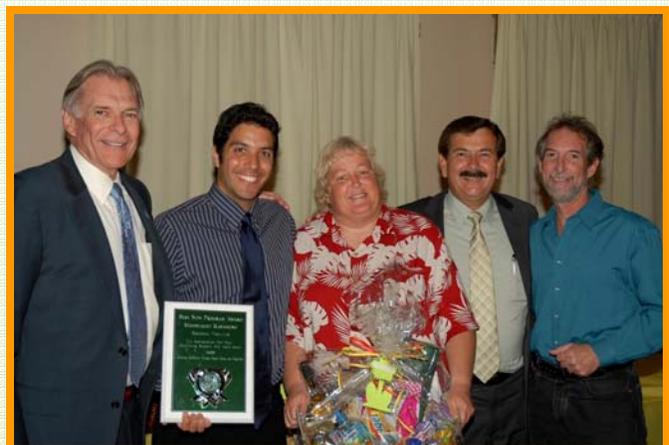
Sergio Hinojosa, General Maintenance Worker, North Agency Headquarters, pictured with Russ Guiney, Kathleen Ritner, and John Wicker, received the Valor Award



Walter Castro, General Maintenance Worker & **Sergio Orozco**, General Maintenance Worker, South Agency Headquarters, received the Valor Award. Left to Right: Russ Guiney, Walter Castro, Sergio Orozco, John Wicker

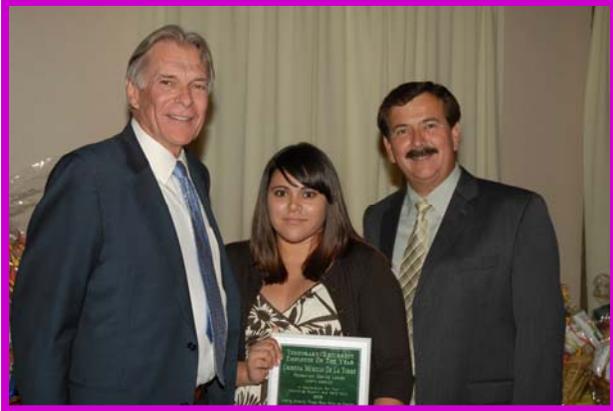


The Whittier Narrows Regional Park Staff, received the Valor Award. Left to Right: Russ Guiney, Fred Martinez, Xavier Thierry, John Wicker



The Moonlight Kayaking Program at Castaic Lake Recreation Area received the Best New Program Award. Left to right: Russ Guiney, Eric Reifman, Lori Bennett, John Wicker, Frank Hoffman

**Department of Parks and Recreation
Award Recipients**



Cristina Murillo De La Torre, Recreation Service Leader, Val Verde Park, received the North Agency Temporary/Recurrent Employee of the Year Award



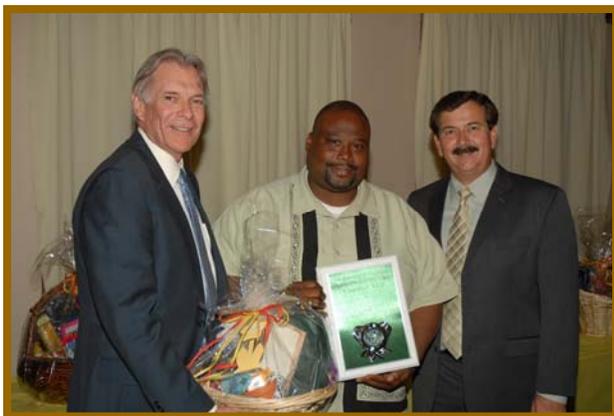
Michael Ralston accepted on behalf of **Grek Leiva**, Youth Worker, East Agency Paint Shop, the East Agency Temporary/Recurrent Employee of the Year Award



Joe Contreras, Grounds Maintenance Supervisor, East Agency, received the East Agency Permanent Employee of the Year Award



Monica Buenrostro, Student Professional Worker I, Procurement, received the Administration/Planning and Development Agency Temporary/Recurrent Employee of the Year Award



Bryan Spragg accepted on behalf of **Kimberly Rede**, Recreation Services Leader, Ruben F. Salazar Park, the South Agency Temporary/Recurrent Employee of the Year Award



Brenda Sanchez, Administrative Assistant II from the Executive Office, received the Administrative/Planning and Development Agency Permanent Employee of the Year Award

Parks Summit 2009 “A Time for Change”

The 7th Annual Park Summit was met with warm weather this year as the event moved from it's usual early January date to a spring May day. This year's theme was “A Time for Change” and speaker, trainer and author Ruby Newell-Legner gave the keynote address. This year's event hosted the largest number of attendees in the Park Summit's history. Director Russ Guiney shared with the audience that this year, the Director's Roundtable chose to focus efforts on “Healthy Partners” and how to become better partners with each other and other agencies. In addition to speakers and break out sessions centered around the theme of change, there was a strong customer service theme as well. More than 25 vendors set up shop and shared their information with the attendees. Afterwards, a delicious lunch consisted of BBQ chicken and tri-tip with all the fixin's!



Russ Guiney, Director, introduces Keynote Speaker Ruby Newell-Legner



Summit Participants visited the many vendor booths and exhibits



Keynote Speaker Ruby Newell-Legner, Trainer and Author, lead the program with a general session called “Understanding and Dealing with Change”



Park Summit Participants representing many park and recreation agencies, had the opportunity to attend many interesting sessions geared towards changes within the Parks and Recreation Field during the breakout sessions

Department of Parks and Recreation Employee Symposium 2009

The Parks and Recreation Employee Symposium was a great success as employees spent the morning learning more about the department, visiting different vendor booths and participating in select parks and recreation activities. This year's theme was "A Time for Change: Change Begins with Me!" Keynote Speaker Stan Brooks, an Emmy Award winning producer, motivated the audience with his inspirational story and proactive actions to make a difference in the lives of youth and the parks and recreation community. Some of the workshops included Eating Right when Money's Tight; Being Active: More Benefits than you Think; The Benefit of Living Well and Eating Healthy and Healthy Meals in 30 Minutes or Less.



19th

ANNUAL FAMILY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Presented by LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
AND DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

The CHARLIE DANIELS Band

the MARSHALL TUCKER BAND



& Also Featuring

GARY US BONDS

CARNIVAL RIDES * GAMES * VENDOR BOOTHS * CLASSIC CAR EXHIBIT * FOOD BOOTHS

SUNDAY

JUNE 28, 2009

12:00pm to 7:00pm

FRANK G. BONELLI PARK

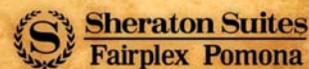
120 VIA VERDE, SAN DIMAS, CA 91773

Advanced General Admission Tickets:	\$18.00
12 years of age or younger:	Free with paying adult
General Admission Ticket Prices Day of Event:	\$25.00
Senior Citizen (60+):	\$15.00
Military:	\$15.00
Parking:	\$5.00

TO PURCHASE TICKETS CALL: (909) 599-8411

OR VISIT ticketmaster.com 800.745.3000
find a retail outlet near you www.ticketmaster.com/outlets

OFFICIAL SPONSORS



HIGH FIVE!

For Those Who Go Above and Beyond...

I like to thank you for this wonderful class of golf. I loved the golf tournament because I won 2nd place in the tournament and I also won a medal. My mom, dad, sisters and brother were very proud of me. I can't wait until next year because I know I'm going to win first place. I like my coaches because they taught me something new every time! Thank you very much.

*Enrique Haro
Jr. Golf Participant*

On behalf of the Board of the Aquatic Foundation of Metropolitan Los Angeles (AFMLA), we would like to thank you for the efforts and partnership of the Department of Parks and Recreation in putting on the Mark Ridley-Thomas /AFMLA Cinco de Mayo Invitational Swim Meet at Victoria Park Pool. Thanks again for helping make such a great day happen for so many young people and their families. Victoria Pool was filled with happy faces, talented swimmers and a wonderful day of recreation for all who attended.

*Roslyn Blake, President
Stan Lee, Executive Director
Aquatic Foundation of Metropolitan Los Angeles*

During a visit to Walnut Creek in San Dimas I tripped while exiting my horse trailer's living quarters and twisted my ankle. Frank Pedraza was on scene and immediately began to assess my condition and recognized that I had briefly lost consciousness due to shock. Frank's quick and accurate treatment helped my injury from potentially getting worse. When I arrived to the hospital the nurses were surprised and said my injury could have been a lot worse and could have taken longer to heal if it weren't for the care I received under Frank's direction. Frank is a volunteer with your department and I would like to commend his quick actions and his care expertise in handling my medical emergency.

*Arden Wiltshire
Joshua Tree, CA*

My daughter who will be 7 years old, just participated in the Junior Golf Program at Los Verdes Golf Course. I want to thank you for supporting such a wonderful program. My daughter had a wonderful time, learned some great lessons, and felt very accomplished at the end of the program. We feel very fortunate that we found out about this great opportunity.

*Nina Neumann & Family
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA*

GIVE Someone a HIGH FIVE!

Do you know someone in our department who deserves special recognition? Maybe you were on a tight deadline and that person helped you meet it. Maybe you were having a tough work day and that person helped you beat it. You know who those people are, the ones who go above and beyond. Help us recognize them. Email their name and a short paragraph of why they deserve a High Five! to iperius@parks.lacounty.gov and we'll do our best to include them in the High Five! column of The Green Scene.



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Department of Parks and Recreation

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